

IN THE SPECIFICATION

After the Title and before the first paragraph, please insert the following paragraph:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. 119 of GB 0317248.3 filed 24 July 2003.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

Please amend the second paragraph on the first page as follows:

2. Discussion of Background Information

Paper is conventionally manufactured by conveying a paper furnish, usually consisting of an initial slurry of cellulosic ~~fibres~~ fibers, on a forming fabric or between two forming fabrics in a forming section, the nascent sheet then being passed through a pressing section and ultimately through a drying section of a papermaking machine. In the case of standard tissue paper machines, the paper web is transferred from the press fabric to a Yankee dryer cylinder and then creped.

Please amend the third paragraph on page 1 as follows:

Paper machine clothing is essentially employed to carry the paper web through these various stages of the papermaking machine. In the forming section the fibrous furnish is wet-laid onto a moving forming wire and water is ~~encouraged to drain~~ drainage from it is assisted by means of suction boxes and foils. The paper web is then transferred to a press fabric that conveys it through the pressing section, where it usually passes through a series of pressure nips formed by rotating cylindrical press rolls. Water is squeezed from the paper web and into the press fabric as the web and fabric pass through the nip together. In the final stage, the paper web is transferred either to a Yankee dryer, in the case of tissue paper manufacture, or to a set of dryer cylinders upon which, aided by the clamping action of the dryer fabric, the majority of the remaining water is evaporated.

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 1 and 2 as follows:

~~EU~~ EP 1,000,197A and ~~EU~~ EP 1,158,090A both disclose triple layer fabric in which the paper side weave is obtained by the interweaving of paper side machine direction (MD) or warp yarns with both individual, non-interchanging, paper side weft yarns and interchanging pairs of weft yarns which, in addition to forming part of the paper side weave, also act to bind the paper side and 5 wear side fabrics together.

Please amend the first full paragraph on page 2 as follows:

While structures made according to ~~EU~~ EP 1,000,197A and ~~EU~~ EP 1,158,090A have given good performance, in some respects, they have been found to be rather high in thickness such that water carried within the fabric void space may, near the end of the paper machine's sheet forming section, rewet the paper sheet resulting in decreased machine efficiency. ~~EU~~ EP 1,273,698A seeks to resolve this issue by incorporating thinner MD and CD (cross machine direction) yarns such that thinner fabrics containing less void space are provided. While this approach is helpful in resolving the so-called "sheet rewet" issue it creates a new problem in that the finer fabric has reduced CD bending stiffness and consequently the less stable fabric has a decreased ability to minimize ~~minimise~~ sheet basis weight profiles.

Please amend the last paragraph on page 2 as follows:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to the present invention there is provided a paper machine fabric having a paper side warp layer and a machine side warp layer, the fabric comprising at least one set of paper side wefts interlaced with the paper side warps, at least one set of machine side wefts interlaced with the machine side warps and at least one pair of interchanging weft binders, the members of each weft binder pair together forming one continuous weft path on the paper side, all of said weft binder pairs interweaving with at least one paper side warp and at least one machine side warp, wherein at least

one weft binder yarn member of at least one binder pair interlaces in an unlocked position with at least one warp yarn of the machine side of the fabric.

Please amend the first full paragraph on page 4 as follows:

Regular sateen weaves are ~~utilised~~ utilized as opposed to irregular, modified, or extended sateen weaves due to the ease with which binder knuckles can ~~be distributed~~ be distributed. Where sateen weaves are referred to in the remainder of the application it is to be understood that the weave in question belongs to the regular category.

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 5 and 6 as follows:

The paper is made by depositing paperstock on the papermaking side of the fabric of the invention and then dewatering the paperstock. The invention is primarily aimed at relatively fine and thin fabric with paper side warp diameter in the range of 0.10 to 0.14 mm and with machine side warp diameter in the range of 0.15 to 0.19 mm. However, the benefits of the invention may be ~~realised~~ realized in fabric ~~utilising~~ utilizing thicker warp yarns of up to, for example, 0.25 mm on the paper side and up to 0.30 mm on the wear side. Although yarns are described as having diameter the invention can be ~~realised~~ realized with weft and/or warp yarns of non-circular cross-section such as ~~ovate~~ oval, square, or rectangular. The yarn materials may be monofilament or multifilament and can be made from such materials as polyester and

polyamide. Optionally the insertion order of the interchanging weft pair can be carried out such that the yarns "reverse". Such reversing to re-distribute relative yarn knuckle positions in the paper side fabric are known in the art.

On page 6, please amend the first full paragraph as follows:

In order that the present invention may be more readily understood, specific embodiments thereof will now be described by way of illustration only with reference to the accompanying drawings in ~~[[which:-]]~~ which:

Fig.1 is a series of warp cross-sectional diagrams showing the consecutive weft paths of a fabric in accordance with the prior art EP 1,000,197A and EP 1,158,090A; and

Fig. 2 is a series of warp cross sectional diagrams showing consecutive weft paths of a first fabric in accordance with the present invention.

On page 6, please amend the second and third full paragraph as follows:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig.1 shows a series of warp cross-sectional diagrams showing the consecutive weft paths of a fabric in accordance with the prior art EP 1,000,197A and EP 1,158,090A; and

Fig. 2 is a series of warp cross sectional diagrams showing consecutive weft paths of a first fabric in accordance with the present invention.

On page 6, please amend the fourth paragraph as follows:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Referring to Fig. 1 a fabric in accordance with the prior art has a twenty warp yarn repeat wherein warp yarns 1,3,5.....19 are paper side warp yarns and warp yarns 2,4,6....20 are wearside warp yarns. The fabric of Fig. 1 also contains a forty weft repeat. The wefts comprise paper side or top wefts T1,T2,T3 T10, wear side or bottom wefts B1,B2,B3 B10 and interchanging binder weft pairs 40,42,44..... 58.

Please amend the second full paragraph on page 8 as follows:

A high value for fabric CD bending stiffness is desirable to increase the fabric ability to ~~minimise~~ minimize sheet basis weight profiles. Fabric according to Fig. 2 may allow some movement of the binder yarns such that they may ride at least partially on an adjacent wear side weft yarn, as indicated by a thickness increase of 2.4% compared to fabric according to Fig. 1, such that bending resistance increases.

Please amend the first and second paragraphs on page 9 as follows:

In Fig. 2 all binders are shown in “unlocked” positions. However, some benefits may be obtained from fabrics where only some binders are in the unlocked position in the wear side fabric and some binders are in a locked position on the fabric wear side. In one embodiment at least 25% of the binder pairs interlace with the machine side warp yarns. Furthermore suitable fabric has been obtained where one

member of the binder pair interlaces with the machine side warp yarn.

In Fig. 2 the ratio of paper side to wear side welt yarns, when counting a binder pair as equal to a single paper side welt pair is shown as 2:1. However, fabric in accordance with the invention can also be made with an “effective” paper side to wear side CD ratio of 1:1, 3:2, 4:3, 5:3 and so forth as has been stated. Similarly, machine warp yarns with ratios of 1:1, 2:1, 3:2, 4:3, or 5:3 can make a suitable fabric.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Please replace the original two sheets of drawings with the attached sheets.

The attached sheets include Figures 1 and 2 of drawings. In each of the figures the reference character “11” has been changed to --12--.